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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION REPORT

## I. Heading

**DATE:** May 25, 2000**FROM:** Verneta Simon & Fred Micke, USEPA OSCs, Region V, EERB

**TO:** K. Mould, OSWER, Wash.D.C.....(BY FAX)  
R. Karl, USEPA, EERB, Chicago, IL.....(BY MAIL)  
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M. Fulghum/J. DeLeon, U.S. EPA, ORC, Chicago, IL(BY MAIL)  
M. Weber, IEPA, Springfield, IL.....(BY FAX)  
R. Allen, IDNS, Springfield, IL.....(BY FAX)  
N. Prasad, City of Chicago, Chicago, IL.....(BY FAX)  
U.S. Department of Interior.....(BY FAX)  
U.S. Coast Guard District 9.....(BY FAX)

**SUBJECT:** Lindsay Light II Site, Chicago, Illinois

## II. Background

**POLREP NO.:** POLREP # 3 AND FINAL - PRP Lead**SITE NO.:** YT**DELIVERY ORDER NO.:** N/A**RESPONSE AUTHORITY:** CERCLA/ENFORCEMENT**CERCLIS ID NO:** ILD0000002212**NPL STATUS:** Non-NPL**STATE NOTIFICATION:** IDNS & IEPA notified**ACTION MEMORANDUM STATUS:** Signed April 22, 1996 & Action

Memorandum Amendment Signed on September 22, 1999

**START DATE:** October 21, 1996**DEMOBILIZATION DATE:** N/A**COMPLETION DATE:** May 19, 2000**UNILATERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER:** V-W-96-C-353

## III. Site Information

## A. Incident Category

Responsible Party Removal Action

B. Site Description

A gamma radiation survey conducted in June 1993 by USEPA and IDNS at a public parking lot at 316 East Illinois St., found the parking lot to have elevated gamma levels. In May 1994, an extent of contamination study was conducted by the property owner, The Chicago Dock & Canal Trust, as required by an Administrative Order by Consent (AOC) dated January 27, 1994. A major result from this study was that there were 12 areas exhibiting elevated gamma as high or higher than U.S. EPA had previously detected. It is believed the principal source for the elevated gamma readings is from thorium. The parking lot was once the site of a building leased by the Lindsay Light Company, which made mantles for gas lights with thorium.

C. Actions Taken

January 27, 1994: AOC/Docket # V-W-94-C-22 was signed by USEPA and The Chicago Dock & Canal Trust.

March 13, 1996: USEPA approved Final Report required by AOC/Docket # V-W-94-C-22.

June 6, 1996: Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO)/Docket # V-W-96-C-353 issued to the following Respondents: The Chicago Dock & Canal Trust and Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation.

July 15, 1996: The Respondents notify USEPA of their intent to comply with the UAO.

October 1, 1996: USEPA approves the Scoping and Planning Documents (also known as Work Plan) submitted by the Respondents.

October 26, 1996: Site work begins. Work on this site was conducted under two phases. The first phase began in 1996 and stopped in 1997. During Phase I, 24,019 tons of thorium-impacted soil was shipped to Envirocare in Clive, Utah and the depth of the site had reached the water table. Phase II was initiated and completed in 1999, and this phase encompassed the removal of all remaining thorium contamination below the water table. During Phase II, 4,809 tons was shipped to Envirocare.

Between 1997 and 1999: River East, L.L.C. succeeded The Chicago Dock & Canal Trust and Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation became Kerr-McGee Chemical, L.L.C.

September 22, 1999: Action Memorandum Amendment signed, which documents the determination of specific institutional controls for thorium contamination located under adjacent rights-of-way. This control was a Right-of-Way Agreement entered among Kerr-McGee Chemical, L.L.C., River East, L.L.C., and the City of Chicago.

May 19, 2000: Notice of Completion letter was issued to Kerr-McGee Chemical, L.L.C. and River East, L.L.C. for the portion of the Site located at 316 East Illinois.

#### IV. Response Information

##### A. Situation

###### 1. Current situation

PRP activities required by the UAO have been completed except editorial changes must be made to the final PRP report. These changes are expected within the next 2 weeks.

###### 2. Removal Activities to Date

Approximately 28,828 tons of thorium-impacted soil was shipped to Envirocare. The total cost to the Respondents to comply with this UAO was \$13 million.

##### B. Next Steps

Send letter requesting editorial changes.

#### V. Other Information

Since the Right-of-Way Agreement was signed in September 1999, there have been two breaches. The first breach occurred in January or February 2000 and involved the City of Chicago's removal of two hydrants from the Illinois Street right-of-way without notifying U.S. EPA. The second incident occurred in late January and early February 2000 and involved the Lindsay Light II owner and developer, River East. River East apparently obtained City permits and began to install a block-long sewer along Illinois Street from

Columbus Drive to McClurg Court. Neither the City nor River East notified U.S. EPA of any permit applications or excavation work in the Illinois Street Right-of-way. Neither party implemented an approved health and safety plan nor conducted requisite radiological surveillance. After radiation surveillance was instituted at River East's Illinois Street sewer project, four areas of elevated levels radiation were discovered.

On February 29, 2000, U.S. EPA discovered elevated levels of radioactive materials directly across Columbus Drive from the existing Lindsay Light Site, which we have called Lindsay Light II Site/RV3 North Columbus Drive.